

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01

SAJ-01 EB-07 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 AF-06 OPIC-03 CIAE-00

PM-04 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 DHA-02 /079 W

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O R 041416Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4504

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5869

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MILI PO

SUBJECT: POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION

REF: LISBON 5840 DTG 031251Z OCT 75

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH COMMANDOS CONTINUE TO OCCUPY RADIO  
RENASCENCA TRANSMITTERS, OTHER RADIO AND TELEVISION  
STATIONS HAVE RETURNED TO NORMAL. COPCON AND RALIS HAVE  
RELEASED COMMUNIQUE STRONGLY ATTACKING SOCIALISTS. LEFTIST  
EFFORTS TO PREVENT TRANSFERS OF RADICAL TROOPS WERE SUCCESSFUL  
IN BEJA BUT LED NORTHERN MILITARY REGION COMMANDER TO SHUT  
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DOWN ONE UNIT. THE POLITICO-MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS TENSE AND

UNRESOLVED, END SUMMARY.

1. RADIO AND TELEVISION: RADIO RENASCENCA TRANSMITTERS ARE STILL OCCUPIED BY COMMANDOS; WHO HAVE BROUGHT UP HEAVIER EQUIPMENT INCLUDING BAZOOKAS AND MACHINE GUNS. THERE ARE NO LONGER TROOPS AT EMISORA NACIONAL. ONLY THE DISABLED VETERANS AND FIVE TO TEN POLICE ARE GUARDING THE STATION, AND THE BARRICADES AROUND STUDIO HAVE BEEN LIFTED. THE WORKERS OF PORTUGUESE TELEVISION (RTP) HAVE BACKED THE GOVERNMENT'S OCCUPATION OF THE RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN A LETTER SIGNED BY 400 EMPLOYEES.

2. COPCON AND RALIS COMMUNIQUE ATTACK SOCIALISTS: BOTH BG OTELO CARVALHO'S CONTINENTAL COMMAND (COPCON) AND THE FAR-LEFT LISBON LIGHT ARTILLERY REGIMENT (RALIS) HAVE COME OUT WITH COMMUNIQUE STRONGLY ATTACKING THE SOCIALISTS FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SEPTEMBER 29 ALLEGED LEFT WING COUP ATTEMPT. ACCUSING THE PS OF DEMAGOGUERY AND DIVISIVENESS COPCON CLAIMED ON OCTOBER 4. THAT STORIES IN JORNAL NOVA AND A LUTA ABOUT OTELO'S ROLE WERE FALSE AND THAT THOSE PAPERS SPREAD ALARMIST NEWS ABOUT THE ALLEGED COUP. THE VITUPERATIVE RALIS COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED IN THE EARLY MORNING OF OCTOBER 4 "WITH THE APPROVAL OF COPCON AND THE ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF" SAYS THAT SOCIALISTS ARE TRYING TO BRING ABOUT A STATE OF SIEGE, WEAKEN MILITARY UNITS THAT HAVE A "DEMOCRATIC" INTERNAL STRUCTURE, AND CREATE A RIGHT WING DICTATORSHIP UNDER COVER OF SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM.

3. OPORTO UNIT SHUT DOWN: FOLLOWING ATTEMPTS BY LEFTIST SERGEANTS AND SOLDIERS TO PREVENT THE TRANSFER OF TWO RADICAL OFFICERS AND FOUR ENLISTED MEN FROM OPORTO DRIVING INSTRUCTION CENTER (CENTRO DE INSTRUCAO DE CONDUCAO DE AUTO DO PORTO -- CICAP), NORTHERN MILITARY REGION (RMN) COMMANDER BG PIRES VELOSO ORDERED UNIT SHUT DOWN ON OCTOBER 3. CICAP CADRES WILL BE INCORPORATED INTO RMN HEADQUARTERS STAFF AND ITS FACILITIES USED AS SCHOOL PENDING RESTRUCTURING OF UNIT.

4. TRANSFERS PREVENTED IN BEJA: ORDERS TRANSFERRING 49 AIRMEN FROM AIR BASE 11 IN BEJA WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN UNAUTHORIZED/DEMONSTRATION WERE COUNTERMANDED BY FIRST AIR REGION COMMANDER GEN PINHO FREIRE ON OCTOBER 3, CONFIDENTIAL

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AFTER DEMONSTRATION AGAINST TRANSFERS BY LOCAL WORKERS AND SOLDIERS FROM NEARBY ARTILLERY REGIMENT. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF DEMONSTRATORS, BEJA CIVIL GOVERNOR, AND AIR BASE 11 COMMANDER, PINHO FREIRE STATED THAT TRANSFER ORDER HAD RESULTED FROM "MISUNDERSTANDING" AND THAT SOLDIERS WERE AUTHORIZED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL NON-PARTISAN POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS. ANNOUNCEMENT WAS GREETED WITH CRIES OF "VICTORY" BY DEMONSTRATORS.

5. PRESIDENT'S RETURN: ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT'S OFFICE, COSTA GOMES WILL ARRIVE IN LISBON FROM U.S.S.R. AT 1:30 AM, OCTOBER 8.

6. COMMENT: THE POLITICAL-MILITARY SITUATION REMAINS TENSE AND UNRESOLVED. GOVERNMENT IS STILL TRYING TO MOVE AHEAD WITH EFFORT TO RESTORE DISCIPLINE IN THE RANKS, BUT IS BEING SABOTAGED BY OTELO'S LACK OF COOPERATION AND OUTRIGHT DEFIANCE BY LEFT OFFICERS AND UNITS LIKE RALIS.

7. RETURN OF COSTA GOMES WILL INTRODUCE NEW FACTOR ON GOINT INTO POLITICAL-MILITARY CRISIS. IF THE PRESIDENT FOLLOWS HIS PAST BEHAVIOR, HE WILL PERSONALLY ATTEMPT TO AVOID CONFRONTATION--AT THE COST OF WEAKENING THE DEMOCRATIC AND ANTI-COMMUNIST FORCES. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER HE WILL ALLOW THE PRIME MINISTER TO CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS TO RESTORE AUTHORITY IN THE MILITARY AND BRING SOME BALANCE TO THE MEDIA AND, IF SO, WHETHER THESE EFFORTS CAN SUCCEED.  
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